

ABSTRACT

5 A data distribution system includes a plurality of data sources each
capable of transmitting a data item, and a data vending machine capable of
receiving the data item from the plurality of data sources and selling the
received data item to a user. The data vending machine includes a data
selecting apparatus operated by a user to select a desired data item, a data
source selecting apparatus connected to the data selecting apparatus for
selecting, among the plurality of data sources, one that holds the data item
10 selected by the data selecting apparatus, in accordance with a specific
standard, a data receiving apparatus connected to the data source selecting
apparatus for receiving selected data item from the data source selected by
the data source selecting apparatus, and a data updating apparatus to
which an external storage device is detachably mounted, for writing the
15 data item received by the data receiving apparatus to the external storage
device.